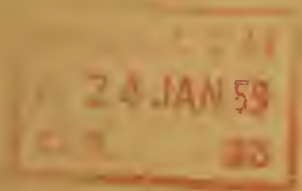


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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer Of Health

for the year

1957



LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.


ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1957.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

James L. Gregory, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.H.,
D.T.M. & Hy. (Died 15th October, 1957).

William Hall, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.,
D.P.H., (Acting M.O.H. from 16th October, 1957).

Public Health Inspector:

Ronald F. Saunders, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

G.S. Banks, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

L.D. Cowell, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I. A.R.S.H.

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- F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.
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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ending 31st December,
1957.

Ludlow.

1st May, 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Health of your District for the year 1957.

Your former Medical Officer, Dr. Gregory, died on the 15th October, and upon this sad event it fell to my lot to pick up the threads and carry out the duties of the appointment until you could consider the question of appointing a successor.

This Report, therefore, follows the general pattern of those so well set out by the late Dr. Gregory.

The Birth-rate, which is expressed as the number of births per 1,000 population standardised for age and sex for the district, was 16.41 and this was slightly higher than the figure for the Country as a whole which was 16.1.

The Death-rate, which is expressed as the number of deaths per 1,000 population, standardised for age, was 10.67 against the national figure of 11.5.

No serious outbreak of Infectious Disease took place during the year, but two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis and five cases of Tuberculosis were notified. There were two deaths from this latter disease.

The Still-birth rate shown on page 4 is very high, but the numbers we are dealing with are so small that five more than in the previous year has the effect of more than doubling the rate.

Building was restricted during 1957 due partly to the withdrawal of the subsidy in respect of houses built for general housing need and partly to the overall necessity for observing economy in Local Authority expenditure. A total of 16 Council Houses and 10 private houses were completed during the year, whilst 18 units of accommodation forming a Grouped Dwellings Scheme at Craven Arms, and 5 private houses were at the 31st December, 1957 in the course of construction.

The number of applicants for Council Houses on the Council's list for housing on the 31st December, 1957 was 311, and the number of applications from elderly people interested in the Grouped Dwellings project was 42. The number of applicants for housing indicate a need for further housing not only for the ordinary applicant but for the elderly.

Projects for housing old people have some effect on the Council's general housing list by freeing a number of under occupied houses, but so many old people are still living in very old houses under insanitary conditions or with their families in conditions of overcrowding that priority may have to be given to these persons, and it may, therefore, be some time before the effect on the general list becomes noticeable.

I would express my appreciation to Mr. Saunders for all the help he has so willingly given me at all times. The subject matter of Section B, C and D of this Report has been prepared by Mr. Saunders and was submitted to the Council in his Report earlier in the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant

WILLIAM HALL.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics.

1957.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births - Legitimate	99	93	142
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	<hr/>		
Totals	101	95	196

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population	=	Crude	14.27
		Standardised	16.41

	M.	F.	Total.
Still Births - Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	4	9

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births = 43.9

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	74	82.	156

Death-rate per 1,000 of the population =	Crude	11.35
	Standardised	10.67

Deaths of Infants under one year of age -	<u>Number of deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u>
(a) Legitimate infants per 1,000		<u>live births</u>
legitimate births	2	10.42
(b) Illegitimate infants per 1,000		
illegitimate births	-	-
(c) All infants per 1,000 total		
births	2	10.21

The following were the Rates for England and Wales:-

Birth-rate	16.1
Still Birth-rate	22.4
Death-rate	11.5
Infantile Mortality Rate.	23.0

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in acres)	112,823
Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid-1957)	13,740
Number of inhabited houses	4,275
Rateable Value of the District	£106,722
Estimated product of 1d Rate.	£424

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimated figure of the population in the Rural District at the 30th June, 1957 is 13,740. This is the same estimated figure as given for the previous year.

Births.

Live births numbered 196 (Legitimate - 192, Illegitimate - 4). The 'Crude' birthrate is 14.27 but the corrected birth-rate is 16.41. The Comparability Factor is 1.15.

Still Births.

There were nine still births and this gives a still birth rate of 43.9 against the rate for the Country as a whole which is 22.4. This is very high, but reference has been made to this on page 2 of the Report.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

Two deaths were reported of children under the age of one year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 10.0 per 1,000 live births. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the country was 23.0.

There were two deaths of infants under the age of one month.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered was 156 (male 74, female 82). This gives a 'Crude' Death-rate of 11.35 and a corrected Death-rate of 10.67 per 1,000. The Comparability Factor was 0.94. Figures showing the chief causes of deaths will be found at the end of the Report.

Natural Increases of Population.

The total number of Births exceed the total number of Deaths by 40.

SECTION B.

Personal Health Services.

These Services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(a) Child Welfare Centres

Child Welfare Centres are provided in Ludlow and Cleobury Mortimer, and are held as follows:-

Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow : Every Monday

Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer : 1st and 3rd Wednesdays
in each month

Attendances at these Welfare Centres during 1957 were as follows:-

Welfare Centre	Made first attendance when under 1 year	Total Cases	Total Attendances
Ludlow	92	231	1,253
Cleobury Mortimer	36	105	618

An ante-natal clinic is also held at the Ludlow Child Welfare Centre every Monday, being conducted by one of the County Council's Assistant Medical Officers. The Ludlow District Nurse-Midwives hold their own ante-natal clinic at the Centre on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month.

It is impossible to give any indication in the table above of how many of the children attending the Ludlow Centre are children from the Rural District, and one must assume that the majority are from the Borough.

(b) Birth Control Clinics

The County Council hold a Birth Control Clinic in the Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow from 2 to 4 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday in February, April, June, September and November.

(c) Care of Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

A Moral Welfare Worker employed by the Hereford Diocesan Association to whom an annual grant of £400 is paid by the County Council, is based in Ludlow and works throughout the Rural District. The Worker concerned is Miss. G. Leslie, of 144, Corve Street, Ludlow. (Tel. No: Ludlow 257).

The County Council also gives substantial grants to two Mother and Baby Homes affiliated to the Lichfield Diocese, but within the County, to which cases from any County District may be admitted.

The County Council also has ~~contractual~~ arrangement with Herefordshire for the admission of cases to the Hereford Mother and Baby Home.

(a) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

People living in Ludlow Rural District normally obtain National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Codliver Oil and Vitamin Tablets) at the County Councils Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Mornings. For those people living some distance from Ludlow arrangements exist whereby National Welfare Foods are distributed by Voluntary Workers from distribution points in the following districts:- Clee Hill, Clee St. Margaret, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms, and Munslow.

Midwifery.

The County Council employ a total of eleven midwives in the Ludlow Rural District and two of this number also operate in the Borough. Throughout the whole area they undertake district nursing as well as midwifery duties.

The following table gives details of the midwifery work carried out by these midwives during 1957 :-

Nursing District	Total Confinements	Total Domiciliary Visits	Attendances on Discharged Institutional Cases	
			Cases	Visits
Burford	10	283	6	21
Church Stretton	17	518	25	136
Clee Hill	14	450	4	21
Cleobury Mortimer	19	598	21	58
Craven Arms,	12	374	10	56
Ludlow	49	1,488	42	136
Munslow	9	254	9	42
Stoke St. Milborough.	7	204	7	42

The Nursing Districts, comprising groups of parishes, do not conform to the Rural District Boundary and the figures given above therefore in some cases (Church Stretton and Ludlow) will include many cases from outside the Ludlow Rural District.

Health Visiting.

Two full-time Health Visitors are employed by the County Council in the Ludlow Rural District and one of these (Miss G.L. Ward) who is based in Ludlow also undertakes health visiting in the Borough.

Home Nursing.

As stated above the midwives employed by the County Council in the Rural District undertake the home nursing duties.

Only in the Borough of Ludlow itself does the County Council employ a Home Nurse solely to undertake these duties.

Cases attended and visits made during 1957 were as follows:-

Nursing District	Home Nursing Cases	Visits
Burford	40	1,061
Church Stretton	299	3,767
Clee Hill	54	1,254
Cleobury Mortimer	109	2,259
Craven Arms	162	3,221
Ludlow	177	4,260
Munslow	75	601
Stoke St. Milborough	37	1,656

Vaccination and Immunisation

Protection is offered, in particular to pre-school children school children and in special circumstances to others, against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and to thirteen-year old children against Tuberculosis.

The immunisation procedure is carried out in many cases by General Medical Practitioners, and by School Medical Officers in Clinics and Schools.

The tables below give the numbers of children from the Rural District who have availed themselves of the facilities offered.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

	County Council Medical Officers.	General Practitioners	Totals
Diphtheria			
Primary	28	156	184
Boosters	17	91	108
Whooping Cough			
Primary	23	148	171
Smallpox			
Primary	10	167	177
Tetanus			
Primary	11	90	101
Poliomyelitis	66	9	75

B. C. G. V A C C I N A T I O N 1957

Schocl	Consent Forms Given Out	Refusals	Number of Consents Presented	Number of Children Skin-Tested	Skin Test Readings		Number Vaccinated	Re-Mantoux Pos.	Neg.
					Pos.	Neg.			
BROWDON FARM	4	-	4	3	1	2	2	1	-
DIDDLEBURY	5	1	4	4	1	3	3	-	-
MILLICHOPE	14	-	14	13	5	8	7	7	-
MUNSLOW	2	-	2	2	-	2	2	2	-
ONIBURY	8	-	8	8	1	6	6	6	-
RICHARD'S CASTLE	2	-	2	2	-	2	2	1	-
STOKESLY	16	1	15	15	-	14	14	10	-

Ambulance Service.

The Central Ambulance Station is in Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331).

There is a local Ambulance Depot in Ludlow and five ambulances are based here.

Drivers are on call and can be called out at any time during the day or night.

One sitting-case car is kept at a garage in Craven Arms for local convenience.

Arrangements for calling out ambulances are normally made through doctors and hospitals but in emergency calls from anyone are put through to the Central Ambulance Station and appropriate arrangements made.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

(a) All home nurses and midwives hold a small supply of minor articles of nursing equipment such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans, and feeding cups, for loan to patients being nursed at home.

(b) The treatment of Tuberculosis falls to Regional Hospital Boards to provide in the way of Sanatoria and Chest Clinics, but the preventive and after care side of the work is shared between the Hospital Boards and Local Health Authorities. The County Council for their share provide open-air Shelters where required. They also join with Regional Boards in making from time to time local arrangements for Miniature Mass Radiography Surveys, and through their Health Visitors undertake a considerable amount of follow-up work with patients. Extra nourishment may in necessitous cases be provided.

(c) Arrangements are made under this section for the convalescence of persons not requiring special medical or nursing care.

(d) Through their Mental Health Officers and Health Visitors the County Council are responsible for the supervision in their own homes of mentally handicapped persons and also for helping general medical practitioners to secure hospital treatment for those persons who become mentally unbalanced.

Domestic Help.

The County Council provides a fairly comprehensive Domestic Help Service through branch offices.

The greater part of this area is served from the Ludlow Home Help Office which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. A small section in the north, however, is served from the Church Stretton Home Help Office which opens on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

During the year ended 31st December, 1957, the services of the County Council's Home Helps were made available in 33 homes. In 26 cases the help was provided for the benefit of aged and chronic sick persons, in 3 cases help was needed on account of temporary illness, in a further 3 homes domiciliary confinements had occurred and in one house there was a tuberculous patient.

Hospital Service.

In addition to the Services provided by the County Council under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, the Hospital and Specialist Services provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board must be briefly mentioned.

The District is served principally by the hospitals under the No. 15 Hospital Management Committee centred at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury. The Ludlow & District Hospital and East Hamlet Hospital serve local needs and Specialist Clinics or Out-patient Sessions are held at these hospitals as follows:-

Clinic or Out-Patient Session.	East Hamlet Hospital	Ludlow & District Hospital.	Consultant.
Orthopaedic	2nd & 4th Mondays 1.30.p.m. - 3.30. p.m.		
Obstetric & Gynaecological	-	Wednesdays 2.p.m.	Mr.S.Burke.
Surgical	-	Wednesday fortnightly 9.a.m.	Mr.J.A.Baty.
Medical	-	Mondays 2.30pm Wednesday fortnightly 10.a.m.	Dr.A.W.J. Houghton. Dr.W.D.Wallace.
E.N.T.	-	Monday fortnightly 1.30.p.m.	Mr.E.N.Owen.
Paediatric	-	Third Tuesday in month 2.0.p.m.	Dr.J.C.Macaulay.
Psychiatric	-	Thursdays 2.0.p.m.	Dr.M.J.Brookes.
Radio Therapy	-	1st Saturday in month 10.30.a.m.	Dr.E.J. Richardson.

A Chest Clinic is held on the third Tuesday in each month at 11.0. a.m. at the Child Welfare Centre, Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow. Although this clinic is provided by the Regional Hospital Board it is for convenience held at the County Councils Centre.

Cases from the District are admitted to the Royal Salop Infirmary, The Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, and Copthorne Hospital, whilst a small number of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care under a paediatrician are admitted to Monkmoor Children's Hospital.

Tuberculosis cases requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Shirlett Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Salop Infirmary is extensively used for the bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream.

Chemical analyses of water samples and sewage effluents are made by the Public Analyst at Chester.

Good Laboratory facilities are very necessary to the work of the Health Department, and I should like to express my thanks to Dr. A.C. Jones of the Shrewsbury Laboratory and his staff for their assistance, in particular perhaps for their invaluable advice when some bacteriological or epidemiological problem arises.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(a) Water Supplies.

Purity of Supplies.

The undermentioned samples were taken for bacteriological examination from public supplies in the area:-

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Total number of samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Birmingham Water Dept.	5	5	0
Bitterley.	3	3	0
Burford.	3	1	2
Clee Hill.	7	7	0
Clee St. Margaret Well.	3	3	0
Clee St. Margaret (Council Houses).	3	2	1
Cleobury Mortimer.	7	6	1
Coreley.	7	7	0
Craven Arms.	5	5	0
Culmington.	3	3	0
Diddlebury.	3	2	1
Hope Bowdler.	4	1	3
Longville-in-the-Dale.	5	4	1
Middleton.	3	3	0
Munslow.	6	6	0
Onibury.	3	3	0
St. Milburga's Well.	6	6	0
Ticklerton.	5	3	2
Wall-under-Heywood.	6	5	1
<hr/>			
Totals	87	75	12
<hr/>			

In addition, the following samples were taken from prospective public supplies.

<u>Source.</u>	<u>No. of Samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Bockleton.	5	5	0
Cornbrook.	9	5	4
Seifton.	5	0	5
Soudley.	4	4	0
<hr/>			
	23	14	9
<hr/>			

These results show that in the main, the public supplies are satisfactory. Slight pollution which occurred at Ticklerton, was of a temporary nature and this matter was rectified. The most unsatisfactory supply controlled by the Council is that at Hope Bowdler, where the Council houses only are supplied from a small spring situated on the hill

land above. Fortunately, it is most unlikely that any of the pollution which occurs is from a human source. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the time is not far distant when this supply will be replaced.

In the latter part of the year, following very heavy rains, considerable pollution of the Burford Supply - controlled by Tenbury Rural District Council occurred. This supply comes partly from the Elan Aqueduct and partly from an underground source near the Aqueduct. It is thought that some underground disturbance occurred, resulting in the pollution.

Emergency chlorination was carried out by Tenbury Rural District Council and all consumers were advised to boil water before use. After a short time conditions settled down again and samples taken subsequently showed that the water was of a satisfactory bacteriological quality.

Regarding the prospective public supplies, nine unsatisfactory samples were obtained, but, of course, it should be recognised that in the event of these waters being used for purposes of public supply, full purification treatment will be carried out.

From private supplies 107 samples were taken during the year, of which 84 were unsatisfactory and only 23 satisfactory. In the cases of the unsatisfactory supplies advice was given to owners and in a number of cases the remedial works which were carried out resulted in great improvement. It must be said, however, that in general the private supplies throughout the area are in a most unsatisfactory state, both as regards bacteriological quality and quantity.

These supplies vary in nature tremendously, ranging from boreholes and deep springs and deep wells at the one end of the scale, to surface spring, shallow wells and open channels and gutters at the other end. A tremendous number of properties in the district are still without that basic and tremendously important amenity of a fit house, i.e.- a piped water supply within the house.

To me, it is always amazing how most of these people without such a supply are able to maintain a tolerable cleanliness of their homes and their persons, denied as they are the very rudiments for cleanliness. It is, of course, on the housewife that the greatest burden falls. It is not hard to imagine the almost intolerable difficulty of carrying out the many household tasks, including the preparation and cooking of food, without piped water and a sink within the house. Unless adequate supplies are provided in the near future there will in my opinion be a still greater drift of persons from the land than has occurred of recent years.

It is hoped that it will be possible to carry out at least some of the water supply schemes that have been prepared during the coming year. Following the public inquiry held in November, 1957, the decision of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government should be made known soon regarding the Western Area Scheme.

Public inquiries are the next step in connection with the Joint High Level Scheme and the South Eastern Parishes Scheme. It is nearly twelve years since the South Eastern Parishes Scheme was prepared by Sir Arnold Waters and presented to the Council and the position is still that we do not know when the work will be carried out and water provided to the many homes that are without a satisfactory supply.

(b) Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Ashford Carbonell.

Work on the Sewerage Scheme for Ashford Carbonell was commenced during the year and is now nearing completion. The Council have approved payment of grant for the conversion of closets other than water closets to water closets, so that before long conditions in this beautiful village will be greatly improved.

Unfortunately, however, it will not be possible for full benefit to be derived from the new system until a public water supply is provided. This is another sound reason why the South Eastern Parishes Water Scheme should be proceeded with at the earliest possible moment.

Clee Hill.

Clee Hill is another area where we may confidently hope for improved conditions in the near future. At the time of writing the Council are advertising for tenders for the work of laying sewers and providing a new disposal works.

Wistanstow.

During the year it was found that most unsatisfactory conditions existed in the village of Wistanstow by reason of two existing drainage systems serving most of the properties in the village being blocked and defective. These two systems, which were provided many years ago by the former Grove Estate, have been badly neglected of late and are in any case quite inadequate for modern requirements.

These systems are now being repaired and cleansed and the Council's Engineer, Mr. E. Shaw, has been requested to report on the possibility of a new sewerage system and disposal works being provided. A new system is, undoubtedly, what is badly needed.

Cleobury Mortimer.

A few pail closets and privies still remain to be converted to water closets at Cleobury Mortimer. Four of these are at houses which the owner had planned to alter under the Improvement Grant Scheme. Eventually, he was unable to carry out the scheme as one tenant would not give consent. The owner is now considering a modified scheme of improvement. The few other closets are at houses which have been listed for demolition and at houses which the Council are endeavouring to take over.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The collection arrangements made a few years ago have been continued. Under these arrangements, four collections are made in every five weeks at Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms, two collections every five weeks at Clee Hill and Burford and one collection every five weeks elsewhere. Generally, the arrangements have worked satisfactorily, although complaints are received from time to time regarding irregularity of collection at Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms. Under present circumstances this irregularity of collection is unavoidable.

Disposal is by tipping at nine tips, of which five are in regular use. The tips are treated regularly for vermin and no nuisances have arisen. The Cleobury Mortimer tip is situated in a most unsatisfactory position close to the main Kidderminster road. Arrangements have recently been made for a new tip to be brought into use during 1958 and when this is done use of the existing tip can be discontinued.

(d) Rodent Control.

Arrangements for the control of rats and mice under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, have remained unchanged throughout the year. The operative, Mr. F. Mear, spends one week every two months at Church Stretton by arrangement with the Church Stretton U.D.C.

In a rural area most rats are found on farms. An agricultural rat destruction service has been maintained, 62 contracts of a total value of £489 being held at the end of the year.

The survey of the district has continued, but this, and also the destruction work, was badly affected during the year by an unfortunate road accident sustained by Mr. Mear. As a result of this accident, the operative was away from work for a period of about five months. During this time the most essential work was continued by the kind co-operation of Clun Rural District Council who lent their operative for a total of 4 weeks.

(e) Factories and Workshops.

There are a total of 82 factories and workshops on the register. Of these, 15 are factories without mechanical power. A total of 11 visits were paid during the year. In 3 cases defects were found and written notices served.

(f) Inspection by the Public Health Inspectors.

The following is a summary of visits paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

Meat Inspection.	565
Housing (Public Health and Housing Acts).	379
House Allocation.	295
Water Supplies.	283
Food Premises.	252
Drainage.	150
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	144
Moveable Dwellings.	43
Factories and Workshops.	11
Knackers Yards.	8
Infectious Diseases.	5
Miscellaneous.	120
	<hr/>
Total.	2255
	<hr/>

Ten formal notices and 152 informal notices were served during the year, including 47 under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The majority of the notices served in respect of housing and general matters were complied with and good progress has been made with works required under the Food Hygiene Regulations. It has not yet been possible, however, to make re-inspections of all the food premises to ascertain if the notices have been complied with.

SECTION D.

Housing.

General Statement.

1.	Number of Inhabited Houses.	4275
2.	Number of Council Houses.	428
3.	Number of houses completed in 1957 -	
	(a) Council Houses.	16
	(b) Private Houses.	10
4.	Number of additional houses provided by the conversion of older houses.	0
5.	Number of Improvement Grants applied for.	58
6.	Number of Improvement Grants granted.	57
7.	Number of applications for Council Houses as at December, 1957.	353
8.	Number of Houses closed or demolished.	11
9.	Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit by informal action under the Public Health or Housing Acts.	15

(a) House Allocation.

During the year the Public Health Department has continued to carry out work in connection with house allocation. This work consists in dealing with all applications for houses, keeping records and submitting reports and lists to the Tenancies Committee. Two hundred and ninety five visits were made to interview applicants and to obtain particulars of their housing conditions and family circumstances.

Sixteen new houses were allocated during the year; also several existing houses as a result of removals.

At the end of the year there were still 353 applicants on the Council's housing list. The main demand for houses is in the Southern part of the district and it is felt that houses for general need could still with advantage be provided at Craven Arms, Clee Hill, Cleobury Mortimer and Burford.

Some difficulty was found in finding a suitable tenant for a vacant house in the Northern part of the district and it would appear that the demand in this area has been met, for the time being at any rate.

(b) Housing Conditions.

It has been found during the past year or so that an appreciable number of houses in remotely situated areas is becoming vacant and remaining unoccupied as a result of people being unwilling to live in such positions. This is particularly the case when main services are not available.

During the year a full survey of 225 houses of less than £30 rateable value in the Parish of Cleobury Mortimer was carried out. The survey produced the following facts and figures.

Number of houses not requiring attention.	89
Number of houses requiring repair.	118
Number of houses unfit for human habitation and requiring demolition or closure.	18

Informal notices have been sent to owners of houses requiring repair. Worthwhile progress has been made, but much more remains to be done before all the notices are complied with.

The Council expressed a desire to acquire, if possible, some houses requiring repair and improvement, so as to form a pool of housing accommodation of a standard lower than that of normal Council houses. Owners of houses at Cleobury Mortimer were approached and at the present time negotiations are proceeding in respect of 14 houses.

The survey revealed a strong demand and need for dwellings for elderly persons. The Council decided to provide dwellings, provided the co-operation of the County Council could be obtained on the lines of that given at Craven Arms. As the County Council wished to obtain experience of other schemes before making a decision, the matter has been in abeyance since July, 1957, but another approach is now being made to the County Council and it is hoped that a scheme may be approved in the near future.

The Council have now authorised action to be taken regarding the 18 houses considered unfit for human habitation.

Much remains to be done in other parts of the district. The survey is being continued and it is hoped that the results will be available during 1958.

The Rent Act, 1957 came into operation during the year. So far as is known, the impact of the Act on this district has not been great. By the end of the year only 3 applications for a Certificate of Disrepair had been made.

In many cases owners have not raised rents under the Act, fearing legitimate demands for repairs from tenants, which would probably follow.

(c) Action under the Housing Acts.

During the year action was taken regarding a number of unfit houses.

The following is a summary.

Number of houses closed under the terms of Closing Orders.	1
Number of houses closed under the terms of Undertakings by owners.	6
Number of houses Demolished.	4
Number of houses made fit and Undertakings cancelled.	1
Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action.	2

(d) Improvement Grant Scheme.

At the present time, this scheme is of limited appeal and is attracting mainly owner-occupiers. It is felt that if the appeal of the scheme could be broadened and possibly some form of compulsion introduced, the scheme could result in a really worthwhile improvement in housing conditions generally and at a much lower cost than that of building new houses.

The Engineers Department is mainly responsible for operation of the scheme, but advice is given to owners by the Public Health Department from time to time, particularly in relation to houses being dealt with under the disrepair clauses of the Housing Acts.

During 1957, 57 Improvement Grants were authorised by the Council, 3 being in respect of houses regarding which demolition or closure procedure had been instituted.

(c) Moveable Dwellings.

15 caravan sites were licensed, mostly for ones where only a single caravan was in use.

The largest site, where there are 15 caravans, is at a farm on the Worcestershire border beyond Cleobury Mortimer. The sites were all well maintained and no nuisances were caused.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Meat Inspection.

There are still the same number (3) of slaughterhouses in the district, but in 1957 there was a still further increase in slaughtering at the Abattoir of the Shropshire Fatstock Society, Ltd at Craven Arms; following the completion of a large hanging and cooling hall early in the year.

As a result, the Council decided to appoint another Public Health Inspector to allow of full time meat inspection at Craven Arms. From October, 1957, when Mr. Cowell commenced general duties, Mr. Banks undertook this work. This rearrangement of duties has resulted in the meat inspection work being put on a proper basis.

Much slaughtering and inspection has been carried out in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays. Sunday slaughtering was done on 48 days. In all, several hundreds of hours overtime were worked by the Public Health Inspectors. Since October, 1957, when Mr. Banks commenced full time working at the Abattoir, the weekend meat inspection work has been shared by the three Inspectors on a rota basis.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 52,606, an increase of 10,643 on the 1956 total of 41,963.

During the latter part of the year arrangements were made by the Shropshire Fatstock Society, Ltd., to export meat to Italy and for some time now a full days slaughtering - of cows - has been devoted to this trade every week.

At the Craven Arms Abattoir the Councils Byelaws relating to the care and management of Slaughterhouses have not been complied with so far as the storage and disposal of guts and inedible offals is concerned. This matter has been taken up repeatedly with the Society and it is hoped that satisfactory arrangements will soon be made.

Animals Slaughtered and Carcases Inspected in 1957.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Totals.
Numbers killed.	5,828	835	1,971	28,172	15,800	52,606.
Numbers inspected.	5,828	835	1,971	28,172	15,800	52,606.

All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcases condemned.	14	20	23	215	47
Organs or parts condemned.	854	245	13	385	702
Percentage affected.	4.89%	31.74%	1.83%	2.13%	2.90%

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
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Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned.	10	10	-	-	8
Organs or parts condemned.	98	100	-	1	262
Percentage affected.	1.85%	15.17%	-	.0036%	1.71%

Cysticercus Bovis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Organs or parts condemned.	4	4	-	-	-
Percentage affected.	.07%	.48%	-	-	-

Weight of meat condemned:	1. On account of Tuberculosis.	20776 lbs.
	2. On account of Cysticercus Bovis.	296 lbs.
	3. On account of other diseases.	43531 lbs.

64603 lbs.

= 28 tons, 16 cwts, 91 lbs.

Total number of animals killed = 52,606.

(b) Inspection of Poultry and Turkeys.

During the past two years, and principally in 1957, a tremendous business in the slaughter, dressing and marketing of poultry and turkeys has been built up at The Grove, near Craven Arms by a local firm, Messrs. J.P. Wood and Sons.

In 1957, this firm extended their premises, installed a considerable amount of equipment, including refrigerators and a fully mechanised dressing line and now claim to have one of the ten largest businesses of this kind in the country. Between 10,000 and 12,000 poultry are handled every week now and in the autumn of 1957 over 20,000 turkeys were dealt with for the Christmas trade.

At the present time in this country, routine inspection of poultry is not carried out in the same way as the inspection of meat, but in many public health circles it is considered that it should be done, particularly in view of the various diseases to which poultry are subject and in view of the fact that salmonella poisoning can be transmitted.

With the vast numbers of birds being dealt with at The Grove, it is quite impossible for the Public Health Staff to make more than token inspections. The class of poultry being handled is, on the whole, good and arrangements have been made with the management for notification to be made should any abnormal conditions be found. It is felt, however, that with this modern form of trading a case is developing for arrangements to be made at national level - possibly on the lines of the "export" meat inspection arrangements under which Government grant is made to local authorities - whereby this important article of diet is properly inspected.

The business of Messrs. J.P. Wood and Sons is still expanding and they have now engaged an architect to draw up a scheme for the building of an entirely new depot at The Grove in keeping with modern requirements.

(c) Food Hygiene.

During the year, 55 more food premises received initial visits under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. In 47 cases informal written notices were served. Only 4 premises were found to be satisfactory in all respects. This gives continued proof of the low number of premises having a satisfactory standard before a visit from the Public Health Department. As may be remembered from an interim report submitted in November, 1957, 167 premises had then received initial visits and only 6 had been found to be completely satisfactory.

Ninety six revisits were made to food premises. Of these visits, 81 were for the purpose of ascertaining the progress being made to comply with notices. This investigation showed that a further 24 premises complied in all respects, 16 complied with the exception of minor details and at 4 premises the work was in progress. Five premises were found to be no longer used as food premises and one new shop had been constructed to replace two of those no longer used.

In 12 cases it was found that no work had been done at all. Regarding these, 4 occupiers had already given orders to builders and 2 were awaiting decisions of the Council on various matters. Two notifications have been received that plans for reconstruction are being prepared by architects. One of these cases is an open fronted butchers shop where conditions must be improved at the very earliest opportunity.

Below is a summary of the main work carried out in those premises where, on revisit, it was found that work had been partly or completely carried out.

Internal decoration to part or the whole of the premises.	22
Wash hand basins fitted, including provision of constant hot and cold water, trapped waste pipe, soap, towels and nailbrush.	18
Structural alterations or repairs.	15
Sinks fitted and supplied with constant water supply and trapped waste.	11
Hot water supplied to existing fittings.	6
Alterations to existing drainage system or new drainage provided.	5
First Aid materials supplied.	4
Cupboards for storage of clothes not used during working hours.	1

Very few premises were found on initial visit to have notices fixed in the W.C. compartments requesting users to wash their hands.

These were supplied by the department. In most cases on revisit it was found that the only people reluctant to fix these notices were the persons running small family businesses.

The managers of the larger stores were generally pleased to receive them. It is felt that they think a notice absolves them from responsibility for seeing that a person does in fact wash his or her hands.

This question of handwashing, whilst elementary, is of the greatest importance in preventing the spread of disease, particularly where a "carrier" is concerned.

Eight applications for Certificates of Exemption were received and granted during the year, chiefly on account of inadequate water supplies. This is a reflection on the inadequate water supplies existing in certain parts of the district.

(d) Supervision of Milk Supply.

The supervision of milk production at farms is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and in general the Council is responsible only for milk retailers other than producer retailers. Conditions at the few retail premises were found to be satisfactory during the year.

Following several cases of undulant fever in a neighbouring urban district, brucella abortus was found in the cows of a herd supplying "Tuberculin Tested" milk. The milk supply from this herd was required by the Medical Officer of Health to be pasteurised before being used for human consumption.

Particulars of licences issued under the Milk (Special Disignation) Regulations are as follows:-

To use the designation "Sterilized".	3
To use the designation "Pasteurised".	1
To use the designation "Tuberculin Tested".	3
To use the designation "Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised".	6

(e) Ice-cream.

There was no change in the general position relating to ice-cream during 1957. There ~~are~~ 35 retailers of pre-packed ice-cream in the district, all selling products made by reputable manufacturers.

The only manufacturer retailer in the district is at Craven Arms. He sells cold mix process ice-cream.

All retailers have refrigerators and their premises have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

General.

Knackers Yards.

There are two knackers yards in the district - at Sparchford and Lower Stanway. The one at Sparchford was rebuilt in 1956. I am pleased to report that the yard at Lower Stanway was also rebuilt during 1957 and will be put into use shortly.

Both new premises have been built to a good standard, giving compliance with the Councils Byelaws relating to the care and management of Knackers Yards. Regular inspections have been carried out.

SECTION F.

A. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following cases were notified during the year ended 31st December, 1957 :-

Scarlet Fever	-	1	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	3
Measles	-	222	Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	116	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	2
Acute Pneumonia	-	8	Acute Encephalitis	-	1
Dysentery	-	1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1

The total number of notifications received was 357 compared with a total of 27 during 1956, the increase being attributable to sharp epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough.

Diphtheria.

There have been no cases of this condition in the District during the last fourteen years.

Poliomyelitis.

Two cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were reported and both of these terminated fatally.

Tuberculosis.

Three cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and two cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and there were two deaths (one Respiratory and one Non-Respiratory) both of aged persons who had not been notified as suffering from this disease until after death.

Particulars of the 70 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1957 are as follows :-

	<u>Respiratory Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.</u>
Male	26	4
Female	30	10
Total	<u>56</u>	<u>14</u>

B. CAUSES OF DEATH 1957.

Cause	Male	Female	Total.
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	25	29	54
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	18	28
Malignant Diseases	12	15	27
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All other Accidents	4	1	5
Suicide	4	-	4
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Other causes	10	11	21
Total	74	82	156

Deaths from Cancer (all forms):-

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
Ludlow Rural District	- 27	1.965
County of Salop	- 516	1.732

A P P E N D I X.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i). Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	15	1	-	-
(ii). Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	67	10	3	-
(iii). Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total...	82	11	3	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1).	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2).	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.5).	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).					
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	3	1	-	3	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers).	-	-	-	-	-
Total...	3	1	-	3	-

